GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1054
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2003
DELAY IN FLIGHTS DUE TO FOG
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Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of domestic and international flights of various airlines whose arrival or departure was delayed, cancelled or disturbed at both the airports in Delhi during December 2002 and January 2003 because of fog, airways-wise;

(b) the loss suffered by Air India, Indian Airlines and Alliance Airways each due to delay/cancellation of flights;

(c) whether advance landing systems are installed at the Delhi airport to enable flights to operate even in foggy conditions;

(d) if so, since when and the amount incurred on their installation;

(e) whether these equipments could not be put to use;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor;

(g) the steps taken to remove the lapses and deficiencies;

(h) whether the Indian Airlines and Air India aircrafts equipped with ILS CAT IIIA failed to land although similaraircraft belonging to foreign airlines landed at IGI;

(i) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(j) the strategy being developed to deal with foggy conditions?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK)

(a) :- A total of 102 domestic and 66 international flights have been diverted at Delhi airport during December 2002 to January 2003. Airlines-wise number of diverted flights are as under:-

Indian Airlines - 47, Air India - 24, Jet Airways - 25, AirSahara - 14, Indian Air Force - 4, Alliance Air - 5, Lufthansa - 6, Blue Dart - 8, Aeroflot - 5, Air France - 5, Kuwait Airways - 3, British Airways - 6, Malyasian Airlines - 3 , . Besides, one flight each of MP Government, Vidyut Travels, Royal Nepal, Sri Lankan Airlines, Cathay Pacific,Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Gulf Air, Austrian Airlines and Swiss Air were also diverted.

(b): The loss suffered due to delay/cancellation of flights by Air India and Indian Airlines are Rs. 4.89 crores and Rs. 3.30 crores respectively.

(c), (d), (e), (f) and (g): The Instrument Landing system (ILS) Cat-IIIA installed at Delhi airport permits authorisedaircraft to land in poor visibility conditions in Runway Visual Range of not less than 200 meters. This system was installed at a cost of Rs.43 crores. It was commissioned in December 2001 and since then it has been working satisfactorily.

(h), (i) and (j): Indian Airlines and Air India could notutilize the Cat-IIIA ILS due to inadequate training to theirpilots for this system. 6 pilots of Air India and 8 pilots of Indian Airlines have so far been trained and approved for Cat-IIIAoperations on A-320 and A-310 aircrafts respectively.Further training could not be initiated due to inability of the American Boeing Instructors to visit Indiato provide training to the pilots due to December 13, 2001 attack on Parliament. They are now coming in March, 2003 totrain our pilots. Thereafter, the system would be utilised by the Indian pilots. Utilisation of ILS Cat-IIIA dependsupon the training of pilots and thier authorisation by the Government.